

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

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Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 19 October 2016

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Lees, Gerald Oscar	i	Tyne Cot Cemetery	link
13 th Bn. (RHOC)	i	West-Vlaanderen, Belgium	i
Captain	i	Plot 59 Row D Grave 12	i
Date of Death 24-04-1915	link	Exhumation 25-1-1921	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	link	Graves Registration Report	9
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	10
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map	4	Trench Map Exhumation	11
Possible Candidates List	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Battalion History	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
ICRC Records	7	Memorial Inscription/Photo	12
Area Sketch	8	Reporting and Review	13

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 59 Row D Grave12 lists an Unknown Captain of the Royal Highlanders of Canada. That is the regimental reference to the 13th Canadian Infantry Battalion. A review of all of the information clearly shows that there was only one Captain of the 13th Battalion whose remains could have been where they were exhumed on 25 January 1921. That Officer was Captain Gerald Oscar Lees.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 59 Row D Grave 12 are those of Captain Gerald Oscar Lees of the 13th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Royal Highlanders of Canada.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Circumstance of Death* file for Captain Gerald Oscar Lees of the 13th Canadian Infantry Battalion indicates that he was killed in action on 25 April 1915 in the vicinity of St. Julien (Attachment #1). Historical evidence, that follows, shows his actual date of death was **24** April 1915.
2. The *E-103 War Graves Register* states that Captain Lees was “killed in action in the field” in the area of Langemark (Belgium) and that there was no record of burial. As such, his name was to be inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial (Attachment #2).
3. The *13th Battalion War Diary* tells of the devastating conditions in the front line trenches during the period of 22-24 April 1915 near St. Julien (Attachment #3). The trenches were shelled and gassed all day on the 23rd, with heavy bombardment continuing on the 24th, at which time the 13th Battalion was forced to retire to the reserve trenches. Sufficient details are provided in the appendices of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade (13th, 14th, 15th, 16th Infantry Battalions) to be able to place each unit in the area during this period. The Canadians were forced out of the front line trenches starting as early as 5:30 am on the 24th, at which time there were heavy casualties. The 13th Battalion, Royal Highlanders, were forced to draw back to Keerselaere. It is stated that the battalions “*were literally blown out of position after position*”.
4. The area occupied by the 3rd Infantry Brigade of the Canadian Expeditionary Force is depicted on Map 1 from the Nicholson Official History (Attachment #4). The specific locations marked show the position on 22 April 1915, to the northeast of Keerselaere, which is just north of St. Julien. In the days immediately following, the 13th Battalion would move to take up a position along the St. Julien to Poelcappelle road, facing Langemark to the northwest. It was in this vicinity that the two Captains of the 13th Battalion would become casualties.
5. The *CWGC Casualty Records* show there were only two (2) Captains of the 13th Battalion killed during the month of April 1915, both of whom are listed on the Menin Gate Memorial (Attachment #5). They are in fact, the only two Captains of the 13th Battalion on the memorial for the entire period of the Great War. That limits the evaluation of this case to either Captain Lionel Ward Whitehead or Captain Gerald Oscar Lees.
6. The *History of the 13th Battalion* by Fetherstonhaugh provides extensive detail on the action that took place, and the casualties that occurred, during the period of the battle (Attachment #6). The 13th Battalion is reported to have started its move as early as 10 pm on 23 April 1915, at which time the Germans launched

the first of many vicious attacks. By dawn on the 24th the 13th Battalion was left of the 15th Battalion, pivoting along the road. It was at this time Captain Whitehead was wounded in the head and reported to be “out of his senses”. Despite the efforts of Lt. Pitblado, Captain Whitehead had to be left behind. Lt. Pitblado then recovered Major McCuaig; however both men were captured by the Germans and served out the war as POWs. It was at this time that Captain Lees was reported killed. Captain Whitehead was alive but reported fatally wounded. He was not reported killed in action.

7. The key piece of information uncovered during this investigation was that, although Captain L. W. Whitehead was mortally wounded and out of his senses, he did not die on the battlefield. Archived documents of the International Committee of the Red Cross show that he was taken prisoner by the Germans and moved behind the enemy lines to Langemark, a distance of approximately 1.5 kilometres (Attachment #7). Although the document reports that Captain Whitehead was there at the end of April, we do not know when he died or where he was buried. It is our belief that he is one of the unknown soldiers in the Langemark [Cement House Cemetery](#), exhumed from the Oostnieuwkerke Churchyard Cemetery (COG-BR Files [2364154](#) & [2364161](#)). That is the subject of a separate investigation and is included here as it lends support to the separation of the remains of Captain Whitehead from those of Captain Lees.
8. A marked up version of Nicholson Sketch 8 is provided to show the location of the CEF units and the men on 24 April 1915, when history reports that “The Apex was Lost” between 4 am and 10 am (Attachment #8). The red box highlights the area where the 13th Battalion was situated along the St. Julien to Poelcappelle road, with the Germans advancing across the front lines from the north-northwest. The blue text on the sketch marks where Captain Lees was at the time of his death, corresponding to the capture of Lieutenant Pitblado and Major McCuaig. Captain Whitehead was recovered by the Germans and moved back to Langemark, noted to the northwest behind the German lines. Captain Lees was killed on the 24th along the St. Julien Poelcappelle road, at the same location where Captain Whitehead was wounded and Lieutenant Pitblado and Major McCuaig were wounded and taken prisoner. If the Captain’s deaths had occurred on 25 April 1915, they would have been at Wieltje, a considerable distance southwest of St. Julien.
9. The *Graves Registration Report Form* (GRRF) of 8 February 1922 indicates that an Unknown Captain of the Royal Highlanders of Canada was exhumed and subsequently buried in Plot 59 Row D Grave 12 of the Tyne Cot Cemetery (Attachment #9). As noted previously, the Royal Highlanders of Canada is the regimental name of the 13th Canadian Infantry Battalion.
10. The *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return* (COG-BR) shows that the exhumation of a Canadian Officer, a Captain identified by stars and clothing, was from trench map grid reference **28.C.6.b.3.8** (Attachment #10). A number of other men of the Royal Highlanders of Canada were exhumed from the same location. This corresponds exactly to where the Regimental

History shows the men were killed in action on or about 24 April 1915.

11. A period trench map has been marked to show the exact location where the remains were recovered at **28.C.6.b.3.8**, along the edge of the St. Julien to Poelcappelle road (Attachment #11). This corresponds to the area marked on the area map in Attachment #4 and the sketch of the Apex in Attachment #8. For reference, we have highlighted the location of Keerselaere and St. Julien. The roads going north to Langemark and Poelcappelle are marked at the top of the map. There is no question that this is the exact location of the 13th Infantry Battalion on 24 April 1915, prior to their move to Wieltje, to the southwest of St. Julien, on 25 April 1915.
12. The remains of Captain Lionel Ward Whitehead and Captain Gerald Oscar Lees, both of the 13th Battalion, are the only Captains missing and recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres for the entire period of the war (Attachment #12). There are 239 men of the 13th Battalion named on this memorial, including the 2 Captains. They are the only Officers of the 13th Battalion listed.

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #13).

The discovery that Captain Lionel Ward Whitehead had been taken prisoner by the Germans and moved to Langemark provided the key piece of evidence that the remains recovered from the battlefield were those of Captain Gerald Oscar Lees. Thus there is conclusive evidence that the gravestone on Plot 59 Row D Grave 12 should be amended to record the identification and his name should be removed from the Menin Gate Memorial.

ATTACHMENT #1

Ancestry.com. *Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: [War Graves Registry: Circumstances of Death Records](#). Record Group 150, 1992-1993/314, Boxes 145-238. Library and Archives Canada. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. War Graves Ledger Books. RG 150, 1992-93/314, vols. 239-302. Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
	Captain	LEES	Gerald Oscar
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
13th. Battalion	25-4-15	6026-1	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"KILLED IN ACTION"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
VICINITY OF ST. JULIEN			
NOTE:-Boxes 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave.....	
		Plot.....	
		Row.....	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

RG.

19. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.
No Record of burial.
20. REMARKS.

ATTACHMENT #2

Ancestry.com. Canada, CEF Commonwealth War Graves Registers, 1914-1919 [[database on-line](#)].
Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: [War Graves Registry: Circumstances of Death Records](#); (RG150, 1992-1993/314, Boxes 39-144); Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

6026-1 L-103 27062

NUMBER _____ RANK Capt. NAME LEES, Gerald Oscar.

UNIT 13 Bn. NEXT-OF-KIN: Mr. William Less - Father

FILE NO. R.L. 9-L-49. Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, Eng..

D.G.R. & E. Ref.

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
25. 4. 15.	Killed in action in the field.	ADB 2090 A.

DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
X	✓ The record of burial 9-L-49 Killed in Area - Longemark.	Authority on R.L. 9-L-49.

MEMORIAL GATE

ATTACHMENT #3

Library and Archives Canada: War Diaries of the First World War. Available as (1) [ArchivaNet: On-Line Research Tool](#), or (2) [War Diaries of the First World War](#).

15th Canadian Battalion. Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Reg., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.		WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Excess heading not required.)		Confidential	21 Army Form C. 2118. 1916. Page 2	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information			
St. Julien	April 22nd		Quiet all day until about 5 p.m. when enemy commenced a terrific bombardment also sent over a great cloud of gas on the frontage held by the Trenches on our immediate left. The Trenches had to retire and this left our left flank open to the enemy. No. 3 Company were called up from Reserve, and one Company of the Buffs also reinforced us. Major Buchanan assumed charge of the front line.			
		2nd	Shelled and "Gassed" all day. The Battalion were ordered to evacuate trenches which was done without the loss of a man.			
		24th	Heavily shelled and bombarded, machine guns very busy. Held the line until 7.30 a.m. when the Battalion was forced to retire to Reserve Trenches. Held the Reserve Trenches until 2 p.m. when we were shelled out and retired to the G.H.Q. Trenches.			
		26th	Sunday. Held trenches all day and the marched to Braving arriving there at 4.30 a.m.			
		27th	Holding old French Reserve Trenches - Divisional Reserve.			
		28th	Still in Divisional Reserve, battle still in progress.			
		29th	Marched off to the trenches again. Heavily shelled both day and night. Received a draft of 270 men.			
		30th	Holding position. Quiet and uneventful. Heavily shelled. British making an attack; Battalion "stood to" in readiness to advance or support as required.			

2449 Wt. W 4957/MS90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/22

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ATTACHMENT #3 (cont'd)

Appendix A 121/5304. 8.

DIARY OF OPERATIONS 3rd Canadian Infantry Bde.
22nd April to 5th May 1915.

Reference sheets 20 and 21.

The trench position of the 3rd Canadian Inf. Bde. north of St. Julien on the Ypres salient was taken over from French troops of the 11th Division on the 16th/17th April. The left of the position rested on the Pelsappelle-St. Julien Road in V.25.a. 05 and extended through V.25.c. 7.25.A. & D.I.B. to D.2.b. The 2nd Canadian Inf. Bde. held the trench line to the right and French troops to the left. A Reserve Regt. was in immediate touch on the left. On the 22nd April, the 15th Canadian Bn, 48th Highlanders, Lt-Col Currie, were occupying the right sub-section having taken it over on the night of 20th/21st and the 13th Canadian Bn, the Royal Highlanders, Lt-Col Loomis were in the left sub-section having relieved on the night of the 21st/22nd. At St. Julien under command of C.O. left sub-section were three platoons from each of the trench battalions and a company of the 14th Canadian Bn, Royal Montreal Regiment, forming a local reserve. Three companies of the 3rd Canadian Bn, under Lt-Col Leighton were in Brigade reserve billets in the vicinity of St. Jean, and the 16th Canadian Battalion, The Canadian Scottish Lt-Col Leckie, formed part of the Divisional Reserve billeted in the northern part of Ypres.

On the 22nd at 5.30 P.M. a report was received from the left sub-section that the French mortar left were being subjected to a heavy artillery bombardment, accompanied by the projection of a pale green cloud of gas of a peculiarly pungent odour. There was at the time some doubt as to whether the gas emanated from the Germans or from the French trenches, but it was shortly determined that it was being used by the enemy to overcome resistance. Our troops were not attacked definitely at this time, and although to some extent affected by the gas, they brought a heavy fire to bear on the portion of the enemy's attack within their trench. The Third Artillery Bde. also co-operated.

The

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The 14th and 16th Bns, in reserve were ordered to stand to arms and the three companies of the 14th were at once ordered to move to Brigade Headquarters in O.25.b. for orders. The 16th Bn. being in Divisional reserve was not available.

By 6.30 P.M. Great numbers of French were retiring towards Ypres passing in disorganized bodies through St. Julien and the country westward. Bodies of the enemy were following in close pursuit. Three companies of the 14th Bn, No 3 Field Co, O.E. and Brigade Grenade Co. which were by this time available, were placed in the O.E.G. second line O.16.a. to North O.22.b. to stay the enemy's pursuit and attempt to rally the retiring French. Some 500 of these stopped in the O.E.G. line, prolonging our line to the N.E. and their conduct was most gallant. The German attack in O.16. O.17 reached within 300 yards of our line and as darkness approached he entrenched on a line O.10.c. south of Wood O.5.c.

At about 8 P.M. advice was received that the 16th Bn, which had been in Divisional reserve as well as the 10th Bn, of the 2nd Canadian Bde. were placed under orders of the 3rd Canadian Bde. A counter attack with this force was planned and at 11.50 P.M. the German position in the Wood in O.10. O.11 was attacked. The Battalions were formed on a frontage of two companies and with distances of 50 yards between lines. The 10th Bn, Lt-Col Boyle, led this attack. Thirty bombers of the 2nd Bde and 70 of the 3rd Bde companies worked with this attack and did very commendable service. The German trenches had been strengthened by three tiers of sand bags as well as wire. The night was bright and the attack became known to the enemy when our troops were 500 yards away so that the advance was carried out under terrific rifle and machine gun fire from that distance, but the greatest steadiness prevailed. The trenches were carried with the bayonet and the wood cleared except for a small remnant with machine guns at the S.W. corner. Lt-Col Boyle was seriously wounded during the attack and re-organization fell entirely upon Lt-Col Leckie. In reporting the driving out of the enemy this officer stated that he had encountered

ATTACHMENT #3 (cont'd)

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4 guns which he believed to be English 4.7's in the wood. A message was sent to the Third C.P.A. Bde to send horses to remove these, but unfortunately the motor cyclist was unable to locate his H.Q. and the message came back the following day undelivered.

While this counter attack was in progress the 2nd and 3rd Bns of the 1st Canadian Bde under Lt-Col Watson and Lt-Col Rennie respectively, reported to assist. The 2nd Canadian Battalion was ordered to fill the gap from the troops immediately north of St. Julien towards Wood in C.11 and the 3rd Canadian Bn. was placed in reserve in C.22.3 The 10th and 16th Bns took up a position some distance north of the wood C.10. C.11, and entrenched, but it was found that owing to the darkness which had fallen, and the great loss of officers and H.Q.'s as well as the increased length of line involved in such a salient the position could not be consolidated and trench maintained. The line was withdrawn to the former German trench line north of the wood, and established there before daylight.

During the night 22nd/23rd one company of the 2nd Bniffs was detached by Col Geddes from his command, and was sent forward to support the left flank of the Royal Highlanders about V.23. The 2nd Canadian Bde, in response to a request for assistance placed three companies of the 7th British Columbia Regiment in the vicinity of Keerselsere. At 5 a.m. two companies of the 3rd Bn. were sent to the line south edge of wood to get in touch with the 2nd Bn. and two companies to occupy C.H.Q. second line in C.16.4, which by two companies 14th Bn. sent forward to St. Julien.

Minor attacks had occurred during the night on the line along Polesappelle Road but these did not seriously affect the situation.

On the morning of the 23rd the position held was:-

Original French line- line of Polesappelle Road to Keerselsere- passing south edge of wood in C.10 to contact with Col Geddes' command C.10.3.

On our front the enemy was not aggressive during the morning of the 23rd. A counter attack by troops on our left apparently diverted his action until late in the afternoon, when two assaults with gas and artillery were made on the right of our position. These attacks were

back

12/13804.

11.

both repulsed by the 48th Highlanders with great loss to the enemy from rifle fire. About mid-day two battalions of the 27th Division reformed, and two companies of one the 4th Rifle Bde, were sent to St. Julien, but before their arrival there instructions were received to send the battalions back to the canal, and these companies were withdrawn at once leaving no troops in reserve.

It was found that the enemy had, during the previous night worked eastward of the Polesappelle Road, and established a strong position with machine guns about V. 30. D. This rendered the left flank of the former trench line untenable and it was determined to draw it back to the line D.L.A. Keerselsere. This change of position was carried out by the Royal Highlanders, the company of 2nd Bniffs and the three companies of the 7th B.C. Regt. without a casualty during the night 22nd/23rd. The new position was organized and completely occupied before daylight. The new position was necessarily on the forward slope of the western extremity of Gravenstafel ridge, and later proved difficult to hold.

At 5.30 a.m. 24th, the enemy opened a heavy artillery fire on the whole of our original front line trenches. This fire appeared to cover also a short stretch of the parapet of the adjoining troops of the 2nd Canadian Brigade. The shelling was followed by an assault with noxious gas, and after a stern resistance the fumes and shells compelled our troops to retire. A succession of new positions was taken up and each in succession was made untenable by the terrific shell fire of the enemy's artillery. No retirement could have been more orderly or harder fought, but the enemy was using his field gun fire direct, and the men of the 48th, the Royal Highlanders, the Buffs and the 7th were literally blown out of position after position. The enemy's rifles and machine guns did little of the work, and his infantry advanced after ours had been thrown back. As the troops occupied the original front line trenches were gradually driven southward by this fire, the enemy's attack developed also from his new positions N. and E. of St. Julien, and the troops holding this line were subjected to

to

ATTACHMENT #3 (cont'd)

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to a similar fire. The casualties were heavy - it was on this morning that virtually all except those in the 10th and 16th battalions occurred.

When the need for troops became apparent at about 5 a.m. the 16th and 10th Bns were withdrawn from their position south of 0.10, 0.11 and the adjoining battalions were thinned out so as to occupy their trenches. This difficult operation was carried out in daylight with very few casualties. The 10th Bn. was returned to the 2nd Canadian Brigade and the 16th Battalion held in reserve in 0.23.c. At about 8 a.m. 800 men of the 16th went forward under Major Isackie to support the troops reeling on St. Julien.

Information was received during the morning of the 24th that two battalions of the York and Durham Brigade would be available and would report north of Wietje. Instructions were also received that these battalions should not be used unless absolutely necessary. Consequently, when these battalions, the 5th Durhams and the 4th Yorks reported they were ordered to prolong the unoccupied G.H.Q. line east of the St. Julien-Ypres Road. Large bodies (estimated at 2,500) of the enemy were seen collecting in the direction of Langemarck and the roads in the neighbourhood of Polesappelle were occupied by considerable bodies of cavalry. Our artillery was directed on these targets.

After a discussion of the general situation with the G.S.O.1. 1st Canadian Division at about 1 p.m. 24th, it was ordered that troops should fall back on G.H.Q. 2nd line. Later in the day it was found that troops in St. Julien had not retired. The village was surrounded by the enemy and communication impossible. It is probable that 100 men held out in St. Julien.

At 4 p.m. a message was received from the G.C. 27th Division stating that two battalions under G.C. Suffolke and one battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers had been directed, the former against Fortuin, and the latter to Cross Roads 0.23.c. and instructing G.O.C. 3rd Canadian Brigade to take command in that part of the field. No previous information of these troops had been received but shortly after receipt of this message the

the Royal Irish Fusiliers reported himself between St. Julien and Fortuin. Personal communication was at once established with him, but he was not in touch with the Suffolk command.

Late in the afternoon of the 24th the 4th Yorks and one and one half companies of the Queen Victoria Rifles reported and were held in support behind the line.

The G.O. Royal Irish Fusiliers was instructed that unless he received orders before 7 p.m. he should withdraw his battalion as he was unsupported.

Under instructions of G.O.C. 27th Division at 3 a.m. 25th, the 4th Yorks and 4th Durhams were ordered to move to a position facing north west in D.8.a. to C.18.c.

At 5.30 a.m. on 25th a counter attack under General Hull with five battalions was directed against the enemy from wood 0.10.c. to St. Julien. No enemy counter attacks were directed against our position during the day, but the trenches were subjected to very heavy shelling and Brigade Headquarters in 0.22.b. was destroyed by shell fire, and was moved to 0.22.d.

The 3rd Brigade was relieved by the 10th Brigade, and moved to bivouac in H.6.c. on the night 25th/26th.

At 10 a.m. 26th the Brigade was ordered into reserve at La Broque behind an attack of French and Indian troops. Shelter trenches were dug at La Broque when orders were received to move south of Wietje. Troops were moved at 3 p.m. 26th and dug in between St. Jean and Wietje east of road.

On night of 27th/28th Brigade moved to bivouac in H.5.c.

On night 28th/29th the 14th and 15th battalions occupied trenches on west bank of Veer canal for advance of bridges with 15th and 15th battalions in reserve in B.23.d.

On night 29th/30th all battalions moved into reserve trenches in C.19.c. - C.20.d.

On night 3rd/4th May moved to bivouac in B.26.

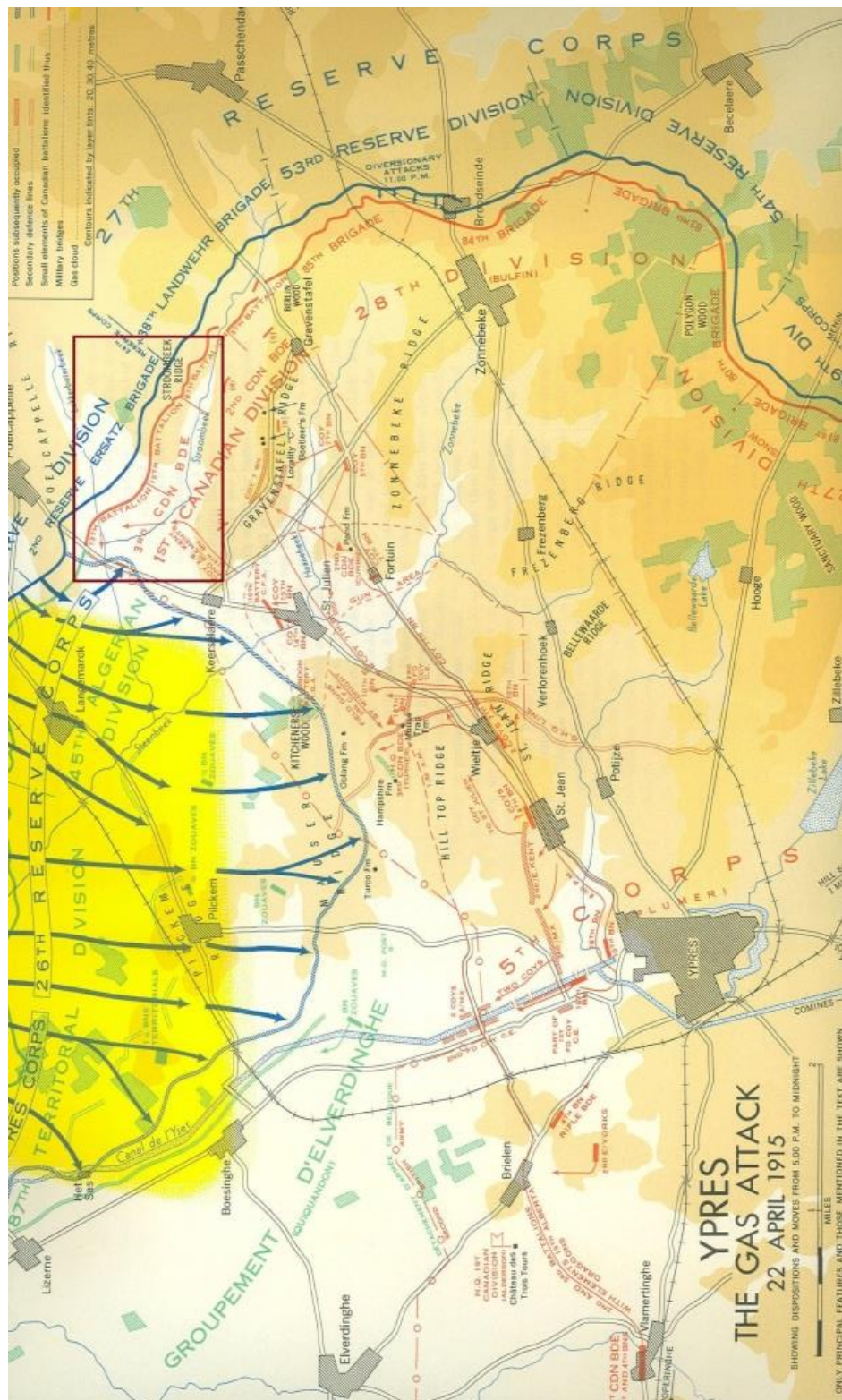
On night of 4th/5th May moved to billeting area south of Badilleul.

Signed. R.E.W. Turner
Brigadier General.
Commanding 3rd Infantry Brigade.

P.F. Villiers Capt
a/- Brig Maj.
3 Can. Inf. Bde

ATTACHMENT #4

Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War. Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919. Col. G. W. L. Nicholson. Queens Printer and Controller of Stationary. Ottawa Canada 1962. (Nicholson [Matrix Utility Digital Source](#) by the Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group).



ATTACHMENT #5

2 record(s) match your search criteria

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
LEES, GERALD OSCAR	Captain		25/04/1915	37	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	
WHITEHEAD, LIONEL WARD	Captain		22/04/1915	26	Canadian Infantry	Canadian	Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30.	YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL	

Surname

☒ Initials

☐ Forename

Country

(commemorated in)

Country

Cemetery or memorial

War

Please select

Date of death: (starting)

01

Apr

1915

Date of death: (ending)

30

Apr

1915

ATTACHMENT #6

[The 13th Battalion Royal Highlanders of Canada, 1914-1919 by Fetherstonhaugh, R. C. \(Robert Collier\), 1892-1949](#)

<p>It was at this time that Lieut. C. B. Pitblado displayed the greatest gallantry in carrying back Capt. Whitehead, who had been mortally wounded in the head and was out of his senses. Being hit in the knee himself, Pitblado was compelled to abandon Whitehead, who was by this time quite unconscious. Subsequently Pitblado met McCuaig and the two, having seen to the retirement of the remnant of their men, were going back together when McCuaig was wounded in the knee. A few moments later McCuaig was hit through both legs and rendered helpless. Refusing to abandon his senior, Pitblado bandaged the latter's wounds under heavy fire. Just as this task was completed, Pitblado was again wounded in the leg, which finished his chances of getting away. Lying helplessly in the open, McCuaig was hit four more times before he and Pitblado were picked up by the Germans, whose advance reached them some ten minutes later. For the courage and devotion to duty shown by these two officers during the whole engagement they were, at a subsequent date, awarded respectively the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross.</p>	<p>with particular severity on the trenches of the 15th Battalion to the right, and followed this with another intense bombardment, wrecking the shallow trenches that had been dug and causing further losses. Under cover of this shell fire the enemy infantry worked closer and closer, endeavouring to rush the remnant of the Highlanders and administer the coup de grace.</p> <p>It was at this stage of the struggle that Capt. Gerald Lees was killed and Capt. L. W. Whitehead fatally wounded. Both these officers had displayed resource and courage and their loss to the Battalion was a heavy one.</p>
<p>About 5 o'clock in the afternoon Capt. Clark-Kennedy, of No. 4 Coy., returned to the front line after a daring expedition, as a result of which he had got through to Col. Loomis and to Brigade Headquarters. He brought back with him orders from Headquarters instructing Major Buchanan to evacuate the line he was then holding and to take up a new line, running to the rear from the point where his present line joined that of the 15th Battalion on the right. In accordance with these instructions orders were issued to bury the Battalion's dead and evacuate the wounded. In both of these difficult tasks Capt. L. W. Whitehead rendered devoted service.</p> <p>At 10 p.m., after most of the wounded had been evacuated to the lines of the 15th Battalion on the right, the companies of the 13th started to move, carrying the balance of the wounded with them, and almost immediately the Germans, sensing the move, launched a series of vicious attacks from the front, rear and left flank.</p>	<p>Dawn on April 24th found the men of the 13th Battalion in the position to which they had retired the night before. Starting from the point where the new line pivoted on the flank of the 15th Battalion, the companies were disposed from right to left as follows: the Buffs and then the companies of the 13th in numerical order. The left flank, extending towards St. Julien, was held by No. 3 Company of the 14th R.M.R., under Major Gault McCombe. To the left of these again was a single platoon of the 13th, under Lieut. S. B. Lindsay, while his left was held by three companies of the 7th Canadian Battalion. Beyond these was a mixture of units hurriedly pushed forward to meet the menace the German break through had caused.</p> <p>Soon after daybreak the Germans again used gas, which fell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[49]</p>
<p>Page 48</p>	<p>Page 49</p>

ATTACHMENT #7

International Committee of the Red Cross. 1914-1918 Prisoners of the First World War – ICRC Historical Archives. <http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>

CANADIEN *WHI*

WHITEHEAD L. Ward

Capitaine
Royal Highlanders
13^{me} battalion Canada
3^{me} brigade

Prisonnier à Langemark
fin Avril

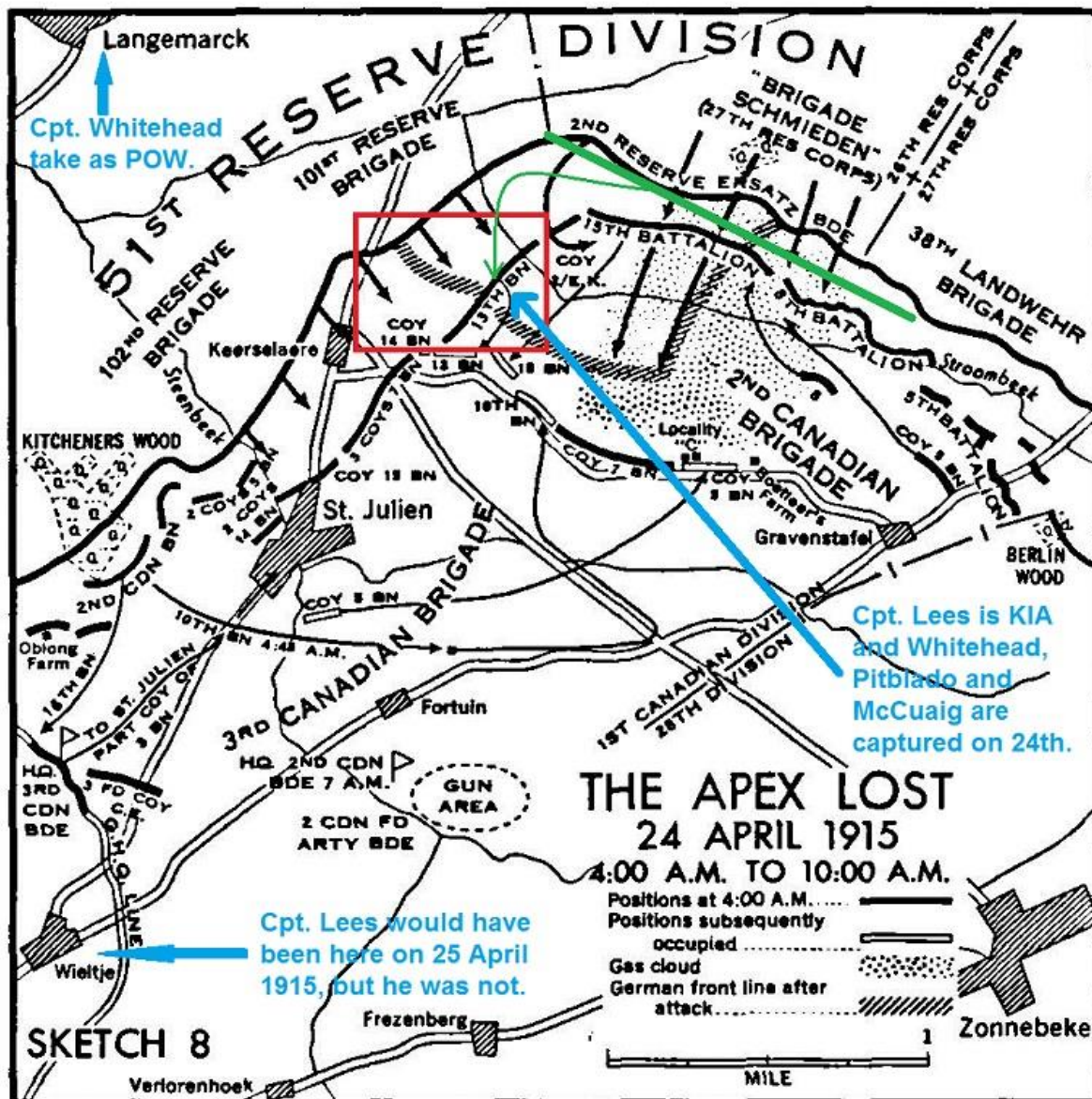
Rép: L. G. Beaubien et Cie
104 rue St. François Xavier
Montreal Canada

Montenach Fribourg Suisse

*Rep. Canadian Branch
British Red Cross Socy
14 Colchester Street
London E.C. 4*

ATTACHMENT #8

Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War. Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919. Col. G. W. L. Nicholson. Queens Printer and Controller of Stationary. Ottawa Canada 1962. (Nicholson [Matrix Utility Digital Source](#) by the Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group).



ATTACHMENT #9

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1834182.JPG>

Army Form W. 3372.

**COMPREHENSIVE REPORT
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.**

No 1. AREA. I. W. G. C.

REPORT No. 51 SCHEDULE No. 684/0
8-2-22

COMMUNE PASSCHENDAELE
PLACE OF BURIAL TYNE COT BRITISH CEMETERY

Map Reference 28.D.17.a.00.25

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		<i>exhumations</i>				
		PLOT (59)	ROW :D:Cont		CROSSES	ERECTED
ROY. HLDERS OF CANADA		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER		✓		11 ✓
ROY. HLDERS OF CANADA		UNKNOWN CANADIAN CAPT		✓		12 ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				13 ✓
R. A. M. C.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				14 ✓
CAMERON HLDERS		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				15 ✓
R. W. F.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				16 ✓
		UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER				17 ✓
		UNKNOWN NEWZEALAND SOLDIER				18 ✓
R. W. F.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				19 ✓
CAMERON HLDERS		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER				20 ✓

ENTERED 10/22 2/22
ALL CHECKED 16/17.10.22

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV P1024 Forms/W3372/3

ATTACHMENT #10

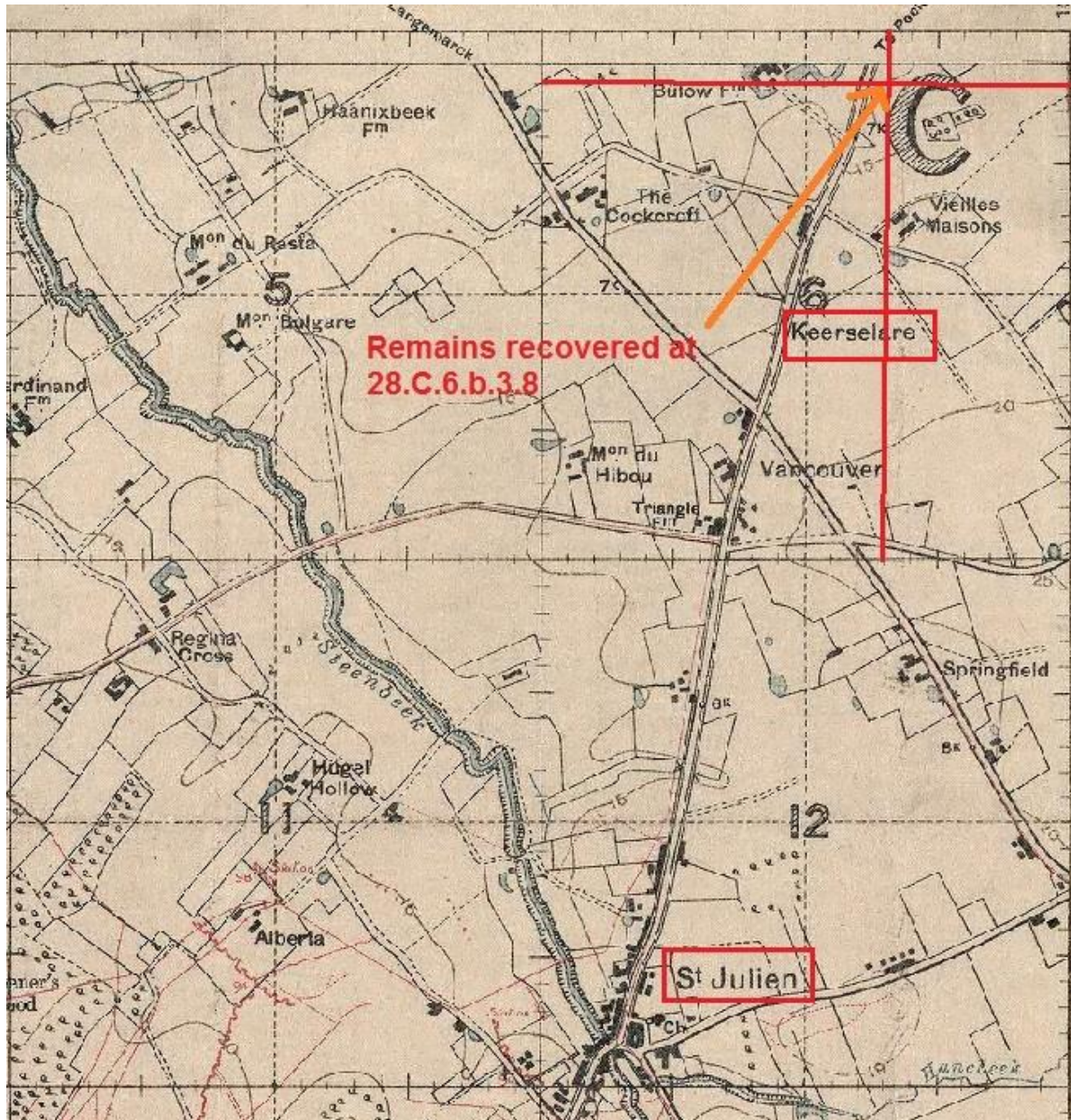
Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return. <http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc1836372.JPG>

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).				Passchendaele 51.987/E.			
BURIAL RETURN.				Belgium Sheet 28.N.E.D.17.a.OO.25.			
Name of Cemetery of Reburial				TYNE COT BRITISH CEMETERY. 26.1.21.			
Plot	Row	Grave	Met Reference where body found.	Was cross on Grave ?	Regimental particulars.	Means of Identification.	Were any effects forwarded to Base ?
59	D	10.	Sheet 28.N.W. C.6.b.3.8.	No.	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER. Royal Highlanders of Canada.	Numeral and Clothing.	Nil.
59	D	11	C.6.b.3.8.	No.	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER. <i>Atto.</i>	"	"
59	D	12	C.6.b.3.8. Sheet 20.S.E.	No.	UNKNOWN CANADIAN OFFICER. <i>Capt. do.</i>	Stars and Clothing.	"
59	D	13	V.19.c.9.3.3.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Clothing.	"
59	D	14	Sheet 28.N.E. J.13.a.67.35.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>R.A.M.C.</i>	Numeral.	"
59	D	15	J.16.a.4.7.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>Cameron Highlanders.</i>	Kilt.	"
59	D	16	J.4.d.5.2.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>R.W.F.</i>	Numeral.	"
59	D	17	J.15.a.7.8.	No.	UNKNOWN AMERICAN SOLDIER. <i>Ads</i>	"	"
59	D	18	J.15.b.15.95.	No.	UNKNOWN N.Z. SOLDIER.	Button.	"
59	D	19	J.4.d.5.2.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>R.W.F.</i>	Numeral.	"
59	D	20	J.16.a.4.7.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>Cameron Highlanders.</i>	Kilt.	"
59	D	21	J.16.b.20.30.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>Cheshires.</i>	Numeral.	"
59	D	22	J.10.c.40.80.	No.	<i>94199 112 211 21/201</i> RAMSDEN <i>H.G. of 161st 41/877</i>	Cap Badge. <i>28/4/1917</i> Damaged Disc.	D.Disc.
59	D	23	J.16.a.50.20.	No.	<i>509th</i> Sgt. T. ROBERTSON, 1st Cheshires.	Damaged Disc.	D.Disc.
59	D	24	J.16.a.4.7.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. <i>Cameron Highlanders.</i>	Kilt.	Nil.

51997E

ATTACHMENT #11

The National Archives British Trench Map Atlas. St. Julien Edition 3(B) Map wo297_0665
Trenches Corrected 02/03/1916. Naval and Military Press, Uckfield, West Sussex, United Kingdom.



ATTACHMENT #12

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. 13th Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

13TH BN. CANADIAN INF.	
CAPTAIN	PRIVATE
LEES G. O.	BOLT R. S.
WHITEHEAD L. W.	BRENNAN A.
COY. SGT. MAJOR	BROGDEN F.
WATSON A. C.	BUCHANAN D. M.
	BURKE J.
SERGEANT	BURRITT E. M.
BROWN D. M.	BURROWS J.
BYARS H.	BUSWELL E. S.
CARYER W. E. S.	BYRNE G. F.
CASLAKE A. J.	CAHILL J.
IMRIE G. W.	CALVERT J. C.
JARRETT E. H.	CAMPBELL D.
MacLEOD P.	CARLEY D. J.
MILLAR G.	CARRUTHERS J.
NEIL W. C.	CHAPMAN R. H.
PHILLIPS E. J.	CHEESMAN W.
SALMON D.	CHISHOLM C.
SCOTT W. G.	CHRISTIE W.
TOWNSHEND F. C.	CLARKE T. W.
LANCE SERGEANT	CONN G. D.
BUCHANAN W. F.	COOK A. G.
	COOK J. R.

ATTACHMENT #12

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator Report Author
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Greg Young	Brigadier-General (ret), Chairman 15th Bn. CEF Memorial Project	15thbncef@gmail.com	Investigator Report Reviewer
Luc Degrande	Private Researcher Local Coordinator - Belgium	luc.degrande@outlook.be	Investigator Report Reviewer